REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollingsworth et al. (2003/0200379A1) in view of Mambakkam et al. (2003/0093606). Official Notice is taken that USB devices containing support for at least two types of flash media formats is old and well known.

Arguments with respect to the claims 1-5 rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections because of the following reasons:

(1) The Examiner notes that Hollingsworth discloses that a computer BIOS searches for a boot disk, such as flash memory storage, which may be via a USB port. The Examiner also admitted that Hollingsworth fails to disclose the USB device supporting at least two types of flash media, but the Examiner holds that USB devices supporting at least two types of flash media is old and well known. Examiner further notes HP 7550 series photo printer as an example. The HP 7550 series photo printer can read CF card, SD card, SM card... etc. However, Applicant respectfully notes that Examiner has misunderstood the recited advantageous features of the present invention. Specifically, an important features of the present invention is to let a computer ***be booted from any slots of a multi-card reader*** inserted with a flash card having a booting pattern therein.

(2) According to the Hollingsworth reference, the flash storage is to be emulated as USB multi-floppy disks with at least the first one of the partitions therein having a size of about 1.44MB. Please see Fig. 4 of the Hollingsworth's reference, in which the flash storage is divided into N partitions so that the flash storage can emulate as N floppy disks. In the 1st partition 1.44MB, it has a boot sector, operating system, and a disk switch utility program. Hence, Applicant asserts that Hollingsworth does not solve the problems of booting a computer from a conventional multi-card reader. Applicant grants that booting a computer from USB

device is known in the prior art, but notes that the prior art was constrained to a single slot card reader rather than a multi-card reader. Hence, what is disclosed by the Hollingsworth reference is more similar to a conventional single slot card reader. According to the present invention, the flash card having booting ability does not need to be emulated as a floppy disk and does not need to assign the card type. Using the multi-card reader disclosed by the present Application, a user is not required to use an assigned type flash card. Advantageousy, any flash card having a booting pattern and being inserted to the multi-card reader disclosed by the present Application is like a flash card having a booting pattern being inserted to a conventional single slot card reader.

(3) Applicant had read the manual of the HP 7550 series photo printer downloaded from:
http://h10025.www1.hp.com/ewfrf/wc/manualCategory?cc=tw&dlc=zh-hant&product=72891&lc=zh-hant&jumpid=reg_R1002_TWZH

According to ths manual, the printer can read a variety of flash cards including SD, SMC, CF card and then print the photo directly or from a computer connected therewith. But the reference fails to teach anything about booting a printer or a computer from the flash card.

(4) Applicant also notes that the Mambakkam reference teaches that a variety of adaptors for MMC/SD to CF, SM to CF, and MEM STICK to CF (FIG.3A) can be read by the Compact flash (CF) reader 42 having a converter chip 42, see FIG.3B. The Mambakkam reference also discloses a multi-slot reader, see FIG. 6 for data transfer among different types flash cards by means of a PC or without PC. Applicant has reviewed the Mambakkam reference and concluded that the reference fails to teach anything about the computer booting from the USB flash card reader.

In view of the above, Applicant maintains that, even if the teachings of Hollingsworth et al., Mambakkam et al., and Official Notice were combined, as suggested by the Examiner, the resultant combination does not suggest: a method of booting an operation system for a computer from a flash card plugged in any

socket of an USB multi-card reader, wherein the firmware is programmed to boot from more than one of the card sockets. Nor does the combination suggest: the aforementioned method in which the USB multi-card reader supports at least two types of cards and the firmware is programmed to boot the operating system from two or more types of said at least two types of cards.

In considering the above, the Examiner is respectfully reminded that in In re Geiger, 815 F.2d 686, 688, 2 USPQ2d, 1276, 1278 (Fed.Cir. 1987) the court stated, at page 1278: "**Obvious to try**" is not a legitimate test of patentability. *Emphasis added.*

Furthermore, in In re Wesslau, 147 U.S.P.Q. 391, 393 (CCPA 1965), the court ruled that "[t]he ever present question in cases within the ambit of 35 U.S.C. 103 is whether the subject matter as a whole would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art following the ***teachings*** of the prior art at the time the invention was made. It is impermissible with the framework of section 103 to **pick and choose** from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art." (emphasis in original)

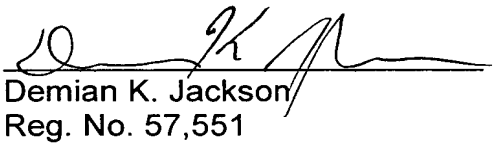
In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that, even if the Examiner is able to present references teaching each and every element of Applicant's claims, the Examiner has still failed to provide a specific motivation from the art sufficient to motivate the skilled artisan to selectively cull certain features from three different sources, while ignoring others features inconsistent with Applicant's invention, to arrive at Applicant's recited structure. As noted above, "obvious to try" is not the applicable standard.

In views of above remarks, it is clear that, although the Hollingsworth reference disclose a computer can be booting from a USB device, it requires a flash storage to be emulated as floppy disks. Furthermore, the Mambakkam reference only discloses an adapter for a card reader and its related control chip. The feature of the present Application is not disclosed by any cited references alone or in combination. Hence, the novelty and non-obviousness of the present Application are doubtless. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and expedite this application to be passed to issue.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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